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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

It was announced on March 27 that United States cotton pledged with Indian banks against loans granted to the spinning mills would be purchased by the Government of India at prices equivalent to "the American floor prices" should the banks find it necessary to sell the cotton to realize the loans. A similar arrangement for East African cotton was announced April 1 with prices based on those offered for American cotton.

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The system of export valuation (for tax purposes) on Paraguayan cotton was changed about the middle of March to a specific value for each grade, with Grade II equivalent 29 U.S. cents a pound at the official rate of exchange. Since the beginning of February 1952 the export tax of 11 percent had been based on the declared value appearing on the invoice for each export shipment. Under the revised plan, receipts from cotton exports to the amount of the official valuation must be turned in at the official exchange rate of 9 guaranies to the dollar, while any receipts above this valuation may be exchanged at the free rate of 32 guaranies to the dollar. At the same time, the minimum prices for the 1951-52 cotton crop were increased. For example, the Grade II support price was increased from slightly more than 14 cents a pound to nearly 19 cents for seed cotton.

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The Government of Guatemala on March 31 established support prices for cotton equivalent to 45 U.S. cents a pound for Delta Pine 15 or Coker Wilt varieties and 36 cents a pound for cotton grown from native seed. In addition, imports of cotton will not be permitted unless there is a deficit in domestic production. In recent years, Guatemala's cotton imports ranged between 2,000 and 6,000 bales annually, mostly from El Salvador.

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A current report on the cotton-wheat barter agreement between Egypt and the Soviet Union announced on February 23, indicates that the quantity of

(Continued on Page 364)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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MEDITERRANEAN BASIN OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION A POSSIBLE ALL-TIME HIGH

Olive oil production from the 1951 olive crop in the principal producing countries of the Mediterranean Basin now appears to have surpassed the preliminary forecast of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, December 24, 1951.) Latest estimates available indicate a possible all-time high of 1.5 million short tons. This is about 2.5 times the revised estimate for 1950 of 621,000 tons and 80 percent larger than the 1940-44 average. These estimates represent the total oil pressed, including allowances for consumption in producing areas for countries reporting only commercial production.

The most significant aspect of this season's olive oil outturn is Spain's bumper crop, now estimated at around 770,000 tons or one-half the total Mediterranean output. This is probably the largest volume of oil ever produced in Spain. It will provide amply for domestic requirements of edible oils without the importation of seed oils to compensate for olive oil exports. Moreover, it also will allow Spain to carry over an adequate reserve and still have far more oil for export than has ever been shipped in a year.

Sharp increases in olive oil production from 1950 also occurred in Italy, which produced over 20 percent of the 1951 total; in Greece and Portugal, which together accounted for 17 percent; and in France. North African production was up 20 percent from 1950 despite a sharp decrease in Libya. Middle Eastern production maintained approximately the 1950 level as the decrease in Turkey's output was counterbalanced by the increases in Syria and Lebanon.

The abundant outturn of 1951 is explained largely by the fact that a heavy-producing year in the alternate olive-bearing cycle coincided with a year of ideal growing conditions in some countries and considerably better than average in most others. The exceptions were in Turkey, where there were excessive rains, and in Libya, where drought impaired production. Furthermore, while considerable insect damage was reported in some important olive-producing areas, particularly in Spain and Italy, losses on the whole were relatively less than usual.

The quality of the oil varies widely throughout the Mediterranean area. In Spain the long delays in processing the fruit after picking due to heavy accumulations at the mills tended to increase the acid content of some of the oil. France, on the other hand, reported generally excellent quality oil; Portugal, very good quality; Greece and Turkey, generally good; and Algeria, average.

The abundant olive oil production has alleviated the edible oil shortage in most areas to the extent that seed oil import requirements have been reduced to a minimum and olive oil consumption has increased. Moreover, stockpiling for a possible short crop in the coming "off" season is underway by various methods such as collection programs, voluntary pooling and the maintenance of rationing, price and export controls.

OLIVE OIL 1/: Estimated production in the Mediterranean Basin, average 1940-1944, annual 1947-1951

Country	Average 1940-44	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951 2/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Europe						
France	6,700	5,500	4,000	11,500	9,000	13,000
Greece	90,600	159,800	51,500	247,500	42,000	155,000
Italy	210,000	300,000	132,000	220,000	188,500	340,000
Portugal	63,900	102,900	31,900	108,600	44,200	105,000
Spain	351,300	598,600	155,000	350,000	200,000	770,000
Yugoslavia	2,900	4,000	2,500	-	800	4,000
Middle East						
Israel and Jordan 3/	7,500	3,300	3,000	2,000	-	-
Syria	12,800	17,600	14,000	11,000	4,400	5,500
Lebanon		10,000	8,800	7,700	2,200	6,500
Turkey	38,000	50,000	31,000	38,000	43,000	38,000
Africa						
Algeria	17,500	21,000	16,000	19,500	20,500	25,000
French Morocco	12,200	20,000	11,500	16,500	13,000	25,000
Tunisia	38,400	19,800	46,300	115,700	44,000	50,000
Libya	2,500	1,000	1,700	9,000	8,500	4,000
Total	854,300	1,313,500	509,200	1,161,000	621,100	1,542,000

1/ Total oil pressed from olives grown in the years indicated; excludes oil extracted from residue.
2/ Preliminary forecast.
3/ Excluding territory formerly known as Transjordan.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign goverments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

In spite of this, however, a considerable volume of oil is available for export. Strong competition in the export market, particularly from Spain, is a source of grave concern in many countries. The market continues weak and unpredictable with prices down sharply.

It is too early to forecast 1952 production. Normally, production could be expected to drop sharply in view of the fact that 1952 is the "off" year for olive bearing. However, an optimistic outlook apparently prevails in several areas. Spain, for example, reports most favorable weather and predictions by olive growers of another good crop. Algeria and Turkey report that the mild winter and abundant rains have given the trees a good start for the new crop. Predictions from Tunisia are that the 1952 crop may well prove to be exceptional. And from Libya, the report is that rains have been abundant, growing conditions are extremely favorable, and with new trees coming into bearing, a good year is in prospect.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

WORLD SHEEP NUMBERS IN 1951 AND 1952 [1]

World sheep numbers at the beginning of 1952 are estimated by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations at 808 million head compared with 778 million head a year earlier. This represents an increase of 4 percent over 1951 and places current numbers 8 percent above the 1936-40 average but only 3 percent above the previous record number of 782 million head in 1942. World sheep numbers have maintained an upward trend since 1947. The gains made in 1951 and 1952 of about 4 percent over the preceding years are considered maximum on a world basis and result from favorable economic and climatic conditons. Along with the record world sheep numbers of 808 million head at the beginning of 1952, there also were record numbers of hogs and cattle in the world as reported in Foreign Crops and Markets for March 24, 1952, and April 7, 1952 respectively. As compared with a year earlier hogs have increased 3 percent, cattle 2 percent and sheep 4 percent.

Drought conditions in Australia and the Union of South Africa and any impact of the break in wool prices in March of 1951 are not fully reflected by this count but world numbers are not likely to increase much further over the next 12 months as a result of these factors. The rate of slaughter has increased in several countries and, as a result of lower prices for wool, growers are likely to save fewer lambs for flock replenishment and the liquidation of old ewes, that have been kept beyond their normal time, will proceed at a fast rate. Replacement of cattle by sheep, which has occurred over the past two years, is also likely to stop and the practice of overstocking will not be continued as sheep farmers in some of the Southern Hemisphere countries adjust their operations to the lower price level for wool.

As a consequence of a strong demand for wool and meat, world sheep numbers have been steadily rising from a post World War II low of about 700 million head in 1947. The increase during 1951 probably was stimulated by the price increase in the last half of 1950 and early 1951. The estimate

(Text Continued on Page 342, tables follow)

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[1] A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

SHEEP: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1941-45, annual 1947-1952

Continent and country	Month of 1/ estimate	Average 1936-40	Average 1941-45	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951 2/	1952 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	2,651	2,710	1,782	1,587	1,322	1,259	1,268	1,302
Guatemala	July	273	3/ 406	-	1/ 618	-	4/ 738	-	-
Mexico	Dec.31 1/	5/6/ 4,809	3/ 4,632	-	-	5,100	5,100	5,750	6,000
United States	Jan. 1	51,404	52,517	37,498	34,337	30,943	29,826	30,635	31,725
Estimated total		59,700	60,800	45,700	42,300	38,500	37,400	38,900	40,300
EUROPE									
Albania		3/ 1,576	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	3/ 316	400	7/ 399	7/ 474	7/ 454	7/ 375	7/ 362	7/ 332
Belgium	Jan. 1	5/ 187	193	144	107	113	121	116	122
Bulgaria 8/	Dec.31 1/	8,746	8,782	8,784	-	-	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia	Jan. 1	3/ 492	511	491	386	459	480	-	-
Denmark	July 15	5/ 147	3/ 198	91	77	65	61	56	-
Finland	Mar. 1	9/ 1,007	833	982	999	1,067	4/ 1,207	1,250	1,250
France	Fall 1/	9,648	7/ 7,162	7/ 7,259	7/ 7,406	7/ 7,510	7/ 7,480	7/ 7,510	7/ 7,562
Germany - Western	Dec. 1 1/	3/ 1,889	3/ 2,327	2,250	2,352	2,492	2,020	1,642	1,662
Greece	Dec.31 1/	3/ 8,304	-	7,205	7,056	6,631	6,337	6,793	7,650
Hungary	Spring	1,490	1,207	7/ 488	7/ 590	650	-	-	-
Iceland	Spring	624	595	1/ 511	1/ 505	1/ 445	1/ 402	1/ 416	1/ 400
Ireland	June	3,076	2,681	2,094	2,058	2,183	2,385	2,616	2,700
Italy	July	5/ 9,350	8,400	8,800	9,190	10,100	1/ 10,376	1/ 10,300	1/ 9,500
Netherlands	May	636	496	460	425	464	390	360	-
Norway	June 20	1,742	1,715	1,698	1,629	1,736	1,812	1,929	2,000
Poland	June 30	5/ 1,941	-	7/ 983	1,406	1,621	-	-	-
Portugal	Dec.31 1/	10/ 3,948	3,800	4,000	-	-	-	5,000	-
Rumania	Dec.31 1/	3/ 10,176	-	7,100	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	Dec.31 1/	5/ 20,000	3/ 23,509	22,500	-	24,921	-	-	26,200
Sweden	Summer	398	486	421	349	311	279	261	-
Switzerland	April	3/ 177	200	182	-	-	182	191	192
United Kingdom	June	26,112	20,881	16,713	18,164	19,493	20,430	19,984	21,000
Yugoslavia	Jan. 1	1/ 9,796	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated total		123,600	113,100	105,100	109,200	115,300	117,300	118,400	120,700
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	5/ 66,000	-	60,800	64,800	74,000	78,000	86,000	93,000
ASIA									
Cyprus 11/	March	300	303	313	291	304	287	-	-
Iran	Mar. 21	14,497	13,854	13,190	13,200	11,100	13,572	14,672	-
Iraq	Mar. 31	3/ 7,090	3/ 6,719	-	-	7,077	7,490	12/ 9,000	10,000
Syria 11/	Dec.31 1/	3/ 2,060	2,539	3,260	3,176	2,843	2,443	2,707	3,200
Trans-Jordan		216	293	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	Dec.31 1/	21,656	23,641	23,528	24,496	25,840	23,033	23,083	25,000
China 13/	May	26,000	22,000	22,000	-	-	-	-	-
India	Jan. 1	5/ 41,000	5/ 38,000	-	-	-	38,900	38,900	42,400
Indonesia	Dec.31 1/	3/ 1,614	-	1,610	-	-	1,740	-	-
Pakistan	Jan. 1	5/ 8,000	5/ 6,000	-	6,150	-	-	-	-
Estimated total		152,600	145,300	149,500	150,500	149,900	150,300	153,600	161,100

SOUTH AMERICA									
Argentina	July	3/ 44,900	3/ 52,288	14/ 54,000	50,000	45,000	47,000	50,500	51,500
Bolivia	Dec.31 1/	5/ 2,608	3/ 3,987	4,000	-	4,195	-	-	-
Brazil		3/ 11,438	11,346	1/ 15,543	-	-	-	1/ 14,251	-
Chile	June	3/ 5,855	3/ 6,057	6,000	6,328	6,000	6,000	6,200	6,300
Colombia	Dec.31 1/	916	1,240	-	1,013	1,061	1,198	1,339	1,500
Ecuador		-	3/ 1,400	-	1,802	-	-	-	-
Paraguay	Dec.31 1/	3/ 159	3/ 203	-	-	252	202	206	-
Peru		5/ 14,900	16,200	-	1/ 17,288	-	-	18,200	18,500
Uruguay	May	5/ 17,931	5/ 20,289	20,000	22,600	23,000	23,000	23,409	26,000
Estimated total		100,900	113,700	120,600	119,200	114,000	115,900	120,800	125,700
AFRICA									
Algeria 11/	April	6,180	6,071	3,145	3,105	3,839	4,531	6,000	6,100
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		3/ 2,500	-	4,800	-	-	-	-	-
Kenya		3/ 3,274	3/ 3,148	3,232	3,300	-	-	-	-
Tanganyika	Dec.31 1/	1,780	2,001	2,366	2,316	2,153	-	2,379	-
Uganda	Mar. 31	1,285	1,007	1,008	1,037	-	1,066	-	-
Basutoland	February	1,443	5/ 1,545	1,703	-	1,558	-	-	-
Egypt	June	3/ 1,771	1,600	1,868	1,800	1,760	1,729	1,730	1,760
French Morocco 11/	Dec.31 1/	9,976	12,172	6,031	7,423	8,474	9,149	10,375	11,500
French West Africa and Togo		3/ 8,674	8,260	-	9,100	-	-	-	-
Madagascar 11/	Dec.31 1/	193	202	156	158	177	204	244	-
Mozambique	Dec.31 1/	84	67	58	65	64	70	74	78
Northern Rhodesia	Dec.31 1/	36	29	35	38	36	36	-	-
Southern Rhodesia	Dec.31 1/	310	305	325	286	302	315	307	-
South West Africa		3/ 2,972	5/ 3,534	-	-	2,628	-	-	-
Spanish Morroco 11/		481	577	574	-	664	684	-	-
Tunisia 11/	Dec.31 1/	3,026	3,250	1,783	1,752	1,587	1,894	2,390	-
Union of South Africa	August	39,899	5/ 37,888	30,723	32,612	31,908	31,361	32,000	-
Estimated total		100,000	105,600	93,100	97,600	99,900	103,400	110,900	113,500
OCEANIA									
Australia	Mar. 31	1/ 112,571	120,209	95,723	102,559	108,735	112,891	115,607	118,000
New Zealand	April 30	31,352	3/ 32,976	32,682	32,483	32,845	33,857	34,300	36,000
Estimated total		144,000	153,200	128,400	135,100	141,600	146,800	149,900	154,000
Estimated world total		746,800	758,700	703,200	718,700	733,200	749,100	778,500	808,300

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1, 1946 estimate of 1,782,000 head is shown under 1947. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/ Agricultural Census of 1950. 5/ Census or estimate for single years. 6/ June. 7/ Official statistics, may be underestimates of actual numbers. 8/ Includes Southern Dobrudja, beginning 1944. 9/ September. 10/ Census, December 31, 1940. 11/ Data include only number taxed. 12/ A new series of estimates was inaugurated by the Directorate of Veterinary Services in 1951. 13/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 14/ The census of May 10-12, 1947, reported 50,418,000 sheep on farms.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.- April 15, 1952

U.S. FOREIGN TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DURING FEBRUARY 1952 1/

United States exports of agricultural products during February, the eighth month of fiscal 1951-52, were valued at $376,449,000 compared with $307,874,000 during February a year ago. The country's exports of all commodities, agricultural as well as nonagricultural, were valued at $1,315,475,000 against $1,060,665,000 in the same month last year. Agricultural products constituted 29 percent of the total during the month under review, the same as in February 1951.

On a value basis, cotton continued far ahead of any other agricultural export, total shipments for the month being valued at $130,015,000, an increase of 32 percent over the $98,463,000 worth exported in February last year. Wheat and wheat flour remained in second place, with total exports valued at $102,021,000 compared with $75,884,000 in the same month a year ago, representing an increase of 34 percent. Leaf tobacco held third position with exports valued at $19,109,000, an increase of 49 percent over the $12,841,000 exported in February 1951.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding features of the February agricultural exports compared with those for the same month last year, were the very large increases in exports of lard, tallow, cotton, oranges, prunes, raisins and currants, milled rice, wheat, soybean oil, leaf tobacco, dried beans and white potatoes. On the other hand, the figures reveal very large reductions in exports of butter, cheese, nonfat dry milk solids, evaporated milk, dried eggs, apples, corn, shelled peanuts, soybean flour and field and garden seeds.

United States imports of agricultural products during February 1952 were valued at $439,646,000 compared with $477,728,000 in the same month last year, a reduction of 8 percent. The country's imports of all commodities, both agricultural and nonagricultural, amounted in value that month to $901,073,000 against $908,541,000 in the same month a year ago. Agricultural products constituted 49 percent of that total compared with 53 percent in February 1951. As usual, the leading agricultural imports were coffee, rubber, wool and sugar.

On a quantitative basis, the February 1952 imports compared with those for the corresponding month a year earlier reveal large reductions for most commodities, particularly for live cattle, cheese, hides and skins, canned and corned beef, wool, cotton, jute, apples, olives in brine, barley malt, shelled almonds, cashew nuts, coconut meat, copra, coconut oil, sugar, molasses, white potatoes, tomatoes and spices. The only agricultural commodities for which substantially increased imports are shown are pineapples, hops, castor beans, palm and tung oil, coffee, cocoa or cacao beans, sisal and rubber.

On balance, United States imports of agricultural products in February 1952 exceeded the value of agricultural exports by $63,197,000. In the same month a year ago, agricultural imports exceeded exports by $169,854,000. -----By Leo J. Schaben.

1/ Fuller details than presented in this summary will be published in United States Foreign Trade in Agricultural products for February 1952, available on request from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES: Summary of exports, domestic, of selected agricultural products, during February 1951 and 1952

Commodity exported	Unit	February			
		Quantity		Value	
		1951	1952	1951	1952
		Thousands	Thousands	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:					
Butter	Lb.	1,279	125	267	114
Cheese	Lb.	10,328	264	2,018	141
Milk, condensed	Lb.	1,969	3,215	454	735
Milk, whole, dried	Lb.	4,483	3,494	2,516	1,924
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb.	13,653	7,908	1,221	1,020
Milk, evaporated	Lb.	8,995	7,025	1,163	1,149
Eggs, dried	Lb.	978	551	233	218
Beef and veal, total 1/	Lb.	924	1,006	384	451
Pork, total 1/	Lb.	7,785	7,675	2,065	1,919
Horse meat	Lb.	986	1,680	108	194
Lard	Lb.	32,277	100,339	6,435	16,070
Tallow, edible and inedible	Lb.	43,299	55,532	7,577	4,645
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton,unmfd,excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	447	605	98,463	130,015
Apples, fresh	Lb.	24,498	18,164	811	960
Grapefruit, fresh	Lb.	13,676	14,040	501	468
Oranges, fresh	Lb.	36,474	46,603	1,933	2,143
Pears, fresh	Lb.	1,276	946	94	104
Prunes, dried	Lb.	1,694	12,043	302	1,280
Raisins and currants	Lb.	1,770	31,120	299	2,548
Fruits, canned	Lb.	8,150	7,066	1,380	1,207
Fruit juices	Gal.	2,389	2,022	2,174	1,570
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.	4,209	3,366	6,059	5,808
Barley malt (34 lb.)	Bu.	350	463	898	1,194
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu.	11,590	4,316	21,398	8,762
Grain sorghums (56 lb.)	Bu.	6,521	5,467	8,905	9,198
Rice, milled, brown, etc.	Lb.	64,814	190,785	6,318	15,820
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu.	34,335	41,794	66,199	92,576
Flour, wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	1,906	1,795	8,638	8,319
Flour, other (100 lb.)	Bag	207	197	1,047	1,126
Hops	Lb.	1,642	1,672	1,448	1,516
Peanuts, shelled	Lb.	13,803	114	1,706	45
Soybeans (except canned) (60 lb.)	Bu.	1,842	2,359	5,082	7,242
Soybean oil, crude, refined, etc.	Lb.	16,861	28,219	3,603	4,012
Soybean flour	Lb.	2,068	757	112	68
Seeds, field and garden	Lb.	6,144	2,421	1,304	771
Tobacco, bright flue-cured	Lb.	16,049	23,927	10,532	16,023
Tobacco, leaf, other	Lb.	3,994	5,238	2,309	3,086
Beans, dried	Lb.	16,758	27,817	963	1,963
Peas, dried	Lb.	5,952	7,989	323	532
Potatoes, white	Lb.	7,598	21,185	154	799
Vegetables, canned	Lb.	5,825	7,481	845	1,019
Total above				278,241	348,754
Food exported for relief, etc.				2,300	698
Other agricultural products				27,333	26,997
Total agricultural				307,874	376,449
Total all commodities				1,060,665	1,315,475

1/ Product weight.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption of selected agricultural products during February 1951 and 1952

Commodity imported SUPPLEMENTARY	Unit	February Quantity 1951	 1952	 Value 1951	 1952
ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands	Thousands	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Cattle, dutiable	No.	22	7	5,444	1,864
Cattle, free (for breeding)	No.	2	1	580	447
Casein and lactarene	Lb.	4,493	3,685	1,482	873
Cheese	Lb.	9,063	3,385	3,308	1,560
Hides and skins	Lb.	17,278	10,435	8,008	3,893
Beef canned, incl. corned	Lb.	11,352	9,289	3,598	3,019
Wool, unmfd,excl. free, etc.	Lb.	35,692	31,003	40,761	27,977
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton,unmfd.,excl.linters (480 lb.)	Bale	94	35	26,032	13,537
Jute and jute butts,unmfd.(2,240 lb.)	Ton	20	1	5,434	316
Apples, green or ripe (50 lb.)	Bu.	218	81	529	238
Olives in brine	Gal.	1,405	980	2,607	1,487
Pineapples, prep. or preserved	Lb.	9,293	10,007	1,005	1,115
Barley malt	Lb.	6,679	3,439	370	209
Hops	Lb.	238	1,131	362	1,224
Almonds, shelled	Lb.	2,675	133	908	56
Brazil or cream nuts, not shelled ...	Lb.	0	0	0	0
Cashew nuts	Lb.	4,303	1,897	1,590	842
Coconut meat, shredded, etc.	Lb.	6,191	4,230	983	585
Castor beans	Lb.	10,854	15,062	822	1,595
Copra	Lb.	115,795	72,574	11,604	5,145
Flaxseed (56 lb.)	Bu.	0	0	0	0
Coconut oil	Lb.	10,311	1,767	1,625	167
Palm oil	Lb.	6,290	8,103	709	1,766
Tung oil	Lb.	1,770	2,050	597	689
Sugar, excl. beet (2,000 lb.)	Ton	398	297	41,921	29,394
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal.	16,935	12,369	2,579	2,387
Tobacco, cigarette leaf	Lb.	6,129	6,083	3,994	4,130
Tobacco, other leaf	Lb.	1,279	2,102	2,215	2,735
Potatoes, white	Lb.	58,473	4,555	1,095	215
Tomatoes, natural state	Lb.	42,698	36,986	3,027	2,470
COMPLEMENTARY					
Wool, unmfd., free in bond	Lb.	14,488	9,553	12,913	5,670
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Bananas	Bunch	3,248	3,221	3,554	3,539
Coffee (ex. into Puerto Rico)	Lb.	280,639	302,525	139,193	153,943
Cocoa or cacao beans	Lb.	58,316	60,377	19,424	17,070
Tea	Lb.	7,067	6,659	3,427	2,952
Spices (complementary)	Lb.	7,164	3,970	5,812	3,219
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton	10	14	2,908	6,632
Rubber, crude	Lb.	123,789	171,098	63,457	73,821
Total above				423,877	376,781
Other agricultural products				53,851	62,865
Total agricultural products				477,728	439,646
Total all commodities				908,541	901,073

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

WORLD 1951 DRIED PRUNE PACK ABOUT AVERAGE [1]

The 1951 preliminary estimate of dried prune production in the 9 leading foreign producing countries and the United States is 231,500 short tons (revised) compared with 188,100 short tons (revised) in 1950 and 212,700 tons (revised) in 1949. The present estimate is about 5 percent larger than the 10-year (1940-49) average of 220,300 tons and 2 percent smaller than the 5-year (1945-49) average of 235,200 tons. Estimates of production made on October 8, 1951 for Australia and Chile have been revised upward while estimates for France and the Union of South Africa have been revised downward. The French pack fell considerably below the original estimate because of the poor quality of fresh prunes. The United States estimate is up slightly from the October trade estimate.

According to preliminary information received on the 1952 pack in the Southern Hemisphere an increase over that of 1951 is in the making. Chile reports that an all time high is expected and the Union of South Africa expects a slight increase over last year.

On March 1, 1952 stocks remaining from the 1951 pack in the foreign countries totaled less than 600 tons, most of which was in France. A year ago at the same time no stocks from the previous year's pack remained. New-crop dried prunes in the Southern Hemisphere countries are now available for shipment.

The foreign trade in dried prunes during this season to March 1, 1952 in the foreign countries as usual was small. United States exports to February 1, 1952, the latest available statistics, indicate 28,346 short tons were exported compared with 21,276 tons on the same date in 1951. This season European countries purchased 16,617 short tons of the total compared with 16,742 tons in 1951. The Netherlands was the leading European purchaser of United States prunes with 3,565 short tons, followed by the United Kingdom with 3,370 tons, Belgium, 2,317 tons and Italy, 1,894 tons. Canada purchased 2,637 tons compared with 2,747 tons at the same time last year. As of April 4, 1952 a total of 28,623 tons of dried prunes have been approved for export under the export payment program. It is expected additional quantities will be approved and exported during the remainder of the season which would bring the season total somewhat higher than that of 1950-51.

The relatively poor showing on this year's exports to date compared with a year ago when the pack was much smaller and the export subsidy program ended September 30, 1950 points out the acute shortage of dollar exchange in most European countries. All information received from abroad so far this season indicates European consumers and importers of dried fruits would be glad to have United States prunes were it possible to obtain the necessary import permits.--By Walter R. Schreiber, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

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[1] A more extensive statement soon will be published as a *Foreign Agriculture Circular* by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

(Tables on following pages)

PRUNES, DRIED: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, 1951 - with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Argentina	Australia	Balkan Countries	Chile	France
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:					
1940-49	4,100	2,800	15,700	2,100	4,800
1945-49	5,300	2,600	18,400	2,800	7,500
Annual:					
1945	4,300	1,900	21,700	1,800	1,100
1946	4,800	3,000	15,200	2,600	4,100
1947	6,300	2,200	12,200	2,900	11,000
1948	5,200	3,600	17,000	3,600	8,100
1949	6,000	2,200	26,000	3,100	13,200
1950 1/	6,600	2,500	18,500	3,400	6,800
1951 1/	5,500	2/ 3,100	25,000	2/ 3,300	2/ 7,900

Year	South Africa	Foreign total	United States	World total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:				
1940-49	1,400	30,900	189,400	220,300
1945-49	1,700	38,300	196,900	235,200
Annual:				
1945	1,300	32,100	233,800	265,900
1946	1,600	31,300	222,200	253,500
1947	1,900	36,500	200,200	236,700
1948	1,900	39,400	177,400	216,800
1949	1,800	52,300	2/ 160,400	2/ 212,700
1950 1/	500	38,300	2/ 149,800	2/ 188,100
1951 1/	2/ 1,600	2/ 46,400	2/ 185,100	2/ 231,500

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Revised.
3/ Includes Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information.

UNITED STATES: Exports of dried prunes, 1951-52 with comparisons
(Crop year, September-August)

Country	Average 1941/42 1950/51	Average 1946/47 1950/51	Annual 1949-50	Annual 1950-51	Annual 1951-52 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Austria	604	1,208	0	0	242
Belgium	2,233	4,007	3,312	2,160	2,810
Czechoslovakia	209	41	0	0	0
Denmark	186	371	318	161	26
Finland	7	14	0	2	4,154
France	216	394	788	960	1,100
Germany	13,294	26,587	23,738	2,728	1,083
Ireland	292	360	0	8	0
Italy	1,005	1,658	2,227	1,045	1,990
Netherlands	1,176	2,055	5,031	4,548	4,362
Norway	255	153	728	36	56
Sweden	2,801	4,003	9,173	5,019	891
Switzerland	793	700	1,229	663	1,029
United Kingdom	27,820	15,625	21,758	22	3,370
Other Europe	674	317	884	40	244
Total Europe	51,565	57,493	69,186	17,392	21,357
Canada	9,907	7,015	6,524	5,986	3,340
Others	8,161	9,215	3,990	3,837	3,649
Total	69,633	73,723	79,700	27,215	28,346

1/ September through February.

Compiled from official sources of the Bureau of the Census.

SHEEP NUMBERS--(Continued from Page 333)

of current numbers at 808 million head is in excess of the previous high of 782 million head in 1942 when United States and Australian numbers were both at a record level. World sheep numbers advanced to a 1936-40 average of 747 million head following a low point of about 690 million head in the early 1930's. This was about the level of sheep numbers at the beginning of the first world war but sheep numbers had dropped to a low of 630 million head in 1922. With the wool price increases from 1922 to 1924, world sheep numbers expanded, reaching an average of 740 million head for the period 1926-30. Current sheep numbers are about one-fourth greater than 30 years ago.

Sheep numbers in the United States and Canada reversed their long downward trend in 1950 when small gains were made, and increased again by about 4 percent by the beginning of 1952. Numbers in the United States are still only 62 percent of the 1936-40 average, however, and in Canada only 49 percent. These two countries felt the competition of beef and grain farming more keenly than did other countries.

In Argentina and Uruguay, the chief wool-producing countries of South America, sheep actually displaced cattle. Numbers in Argentina are now placed at over 51.5 million head which is 15 percent above the 1936-40 average and up slightly from last year, as over-all grazing conditions in the sheep areas remain favorable. In Uruguay sheep numbers are the highest on record and are about 45 percent higher than the 1936-40 average. An outstanding increase of about 11 percent was made in the past year as ranchers responded to high wool prices by saving a larger percentage of lambs and old ewes. Uruguay and New Zealand are the only major wool producing countries where sheep numbers are at record levels.

The effects of drought and other unfavorable weather in Australia and the Union of South Africa are difficult to measure at this time. Statements from Australia have indicated serious losses of mature sheep through drowning and pests in some areas and through bush fires in others. South Africa is currently experiencing a serious drought and slaughter has been increased. Both of these countries, however, were expanding their sheep numbers rapidly and the losses due to bad weather may only slow the rate of increase and not result in actual decreases in numbers. In the past drought losses have been exaggerated and it is estimated that numbers will increase by about 2 percent over last year in both countries.

In New Zealand, the other important wool producing Dominion, more intensive sheep farming is practiced and weather conditions are not as variable as in Australia and South Africa. The long-time trend in sheep numbers is up and 1952 numbers are estimated to be up about 5 percent over 1951 and 15 percent above the 1936-40 average.

In Europe, 1952 sheep numbers are only 2 percent under the 1936-40 average, as another small increase was made over the previous year. A sharp increase of about 15 percent is noted in Greece, which now has 92 percent of its 1936-40 average. Numbers in Spain, Europe's largest sheep country, increased about 3 percent over 1951 and is at an all-time peak in numbers. Other slight increases are noted in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Western Germany and France.

Sheep numbers in Asia increased during 1951 as a result of substantial gains made in Syria, Turkey, and India. High wool prices and favorable weather conditions also brought out significant increases in North Africa, particularly in French Morocco and Tunisia.

The expansion in sheep numbers in the Soviet Union has continued at a fast rate. Numbers are now about 40 percent above the 1936-40 average. It is noted, however, that present numbers at 93 million head are still well below the 134 million head in European and Asiatic Russia in 1928.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

TOBACCO

ITALY'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION HIGHER; IMPORTS AND EXPORTS LOWER

Italy's 1951 tobacco production is estimated at 3 percent above 1950, according to L. J. Reda, Agricultural Economic Assistant, American Embassy, Rome. Imports of unmanufactured tobacco during January-November 1951 were 39 percent below the corresponding 1950 period. Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during the first 11 months of 1951 were 20 percent below the comparable 1950 period.

The country's 1951 tobacco production is estimated at 176.4 million pounds as compared with 172.0 million pounds in 1950.

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco during the first 11 months of 1951 totaled only 5.6 million pounds as compared with 9.1 million pounds in the same 1950 period. Greece, the most important unmanufactured tobacco source during the 1951 period, supplied 3.5 million pounds, or 66 percent of the total. Turkey, the second most important source, supplied 952,378 pounds, or 18 percent; Soviet Union ranked third, supplying 881,840 pounds, or the remaining 16 percent during 1951.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during January-November 1951 totaled only 17.4 million pounds as compared with 21.6 million pounds in the comparable 1950 period. Soviet Union, the most important 1951 export outlet, took 3.5 million pounds. The Netherlands, the second most important outlet, took 3.3 million pounds; Western Germany ranked third, taking 2.2 million pounds; the United Kingdom, fourth, with 2.0 million pounds. Other countries taking unmanufactured tobacco during this 1951 period included Belgium-Luxembourg, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, the United States, and Uruguay. The decrease in exports during 1951 are reportedly attributable to the absence of Poland from the Italian tobacco market. During 1950, Poland took 4.7 million pounds of Italian leaf tobacco.

JAPAN'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS LOWER; IMPORTS, EXPORTS, MANUFACTURING AND SALES HIGHER

Japan's 1951 tobacco production is estimated at 3 percent below the 1950 output, according to J. C. Dodson, Agricultural Attache, Office of the United States Political Adviser, Tokyo. Stocks of leaf tobacco as of March 31, 1952, were 3 percent below the same 1951 date. Imports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1951 were 32 percent above the 1950 total. Exports of leaf tobacco during 1951 were 73 percent above 1950. Manufacture of tobacco products during 1951 increased 15 percent as compared with 1950.

The country's 1951 tobacco production is estimated at 210.0 million pounds from 132,520 acres. This compares with the 1950 harvest of 216.3 million pounds from 132,629 acres. The significant factors in the 1951 crop are the increase in flue-cured leaf production and the decrease in native and Burley output. Flue-cured production for 1951 is estimated at 108.7 million pounds as compared with 105.5 million pounds in 1950.

Native leaf production in 1951 is estimated at only 97.2 million pounds as compared with 106.1 million in 1950 and Burley output for 1951 is placed at 4.1 million pounds as compared with 4.7 million pounds in 1950.

Stocks of leaf tobacco as of March 31, 1952, were estimated at 240.7 million pounds as compared with 247.4 million pounds on the same 1951 date.

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1951 totaled 3.6 million pounds as compared with 2.8 million pounds in 1950. India and the United States, the only 1951 unmanufactured tobacco sources, supplied 2.5 and 1.1 million pounds, respectively.

Exports of leaf tobacco during 1951 totaled 1.5 million pounds as compared with only 884,045 pounds in 1950. Western Germany, the most important 1951 export outlet, took 791,451 pounds; Egypt ranked second in importance, taking 597,447 pounds, and "other" countries took the remaining 141,094 pounds. In addition to leaf, Japan exported 903.7 million pieces of manufactured tobacco products (mostly cigarettes) 75 percent of which went to Korea, 24 percent to Okinawa, and 1 percent to "other" countries.

According to Japan's Monopoly Corporation, the manufacture of tobacco products during 1951 totaled 84,436 million pieces as compared with 73,374 million pieces during 1950. Cigarette production constituted most of the 1951 output, as pipe tobacco and cigar manufacturing are very small. Sales of manufactured tobacco during 1951 is estimated at 81,941 million pieces. This is an increase of 11 percent when compared with the 1950 sales of 74,025 million pieces.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

U. S. RICE EXPORTS HEAVY IN FEBRUARY

United States exports of rice in February totaled 1,933,000 bags (100 pounds), the largest monthly shipments in nearly 2 years. Trade with Asia comprised as much as three-fourths of the month's exports, with 60 percent of the total shipments going to Japan, 11 percent to Korea, and 5 percent to Indonesia.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries, February 1952, with comparisons 1/

Continent and Country	August-July		August-February		February	
	1937-38 to 1941-42	1950-51	1950-51	1951-52 2/	1950	1951 2/
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Switzerland	41	89	85	14	11	0
Greece	64	295	196	164	0	3/
Belgium & Luxembourg	66	162	161	26	1	7
Other Europe	257	12	10	1	0	3/
Total	428	558	452	205	12	7
British Honduras	4/	23	10	14	0	2
British West Indies	3/	23	18	48	2	1
Canada	194	381	252	307	24	27
Cuba	2,750	6,965	5,316	3,290	597	424
Republic of Panama	4/	3/	0	10	0	0
Netherlands Antilles	4/	25	10	13	1	2
Venezuela	20	326	91	182	10	4
Indonesia	4/	9	3	1,479	0	67
Japan	4/	326	193	2,144	1	1,178
Korea	4/	271	15	1,758	9	213
Liberia	4/	23	7	46	3	0
Saudi Arabia	4/	104	62	61	7	1
Other countries	190	57	51	26	2	7
Total	3,582	9,091	6,480	9,583	668	1,933

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent.
2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ If any, included in other countries.

Bureau of the Census.

The February exports to countries not shown in the table, with the exception of one entry, were of rice classified as milled rice, containing over 25 percent whole kernels. Shipments of this type went to the following countries (bags of 100 pounds): Mexico 245; Canal Zone 6; Haiti 1,160; Colombia 15; Peru 10; Chile 500; France 5; Syria

221; Palestine and Israel 259; Arabia Peninsular States 300; State of Bahrein 800; French Pacific Islands 860; Western Pacific Islands 450, and Belgian Congo 10. In addition, 1,000 bags of rice classified as milled rice, containing over 25 percent whole kernels, were exported to Mexico.

Rice exports during the August-February period of the current marketing year totaled 9,583,000 bags, an increase of 48 percent over the corresponding period of a year earlier. More than one-half of this volume, refecting a sharp increase in exports to Asia, was shipped to Japan, Korea and Indonesia. Shipments to Cuba, the largest importer of United States rice, on the other hand, declined by more than 2,000 bags, or 38 percent, during the period. Exports to the European countries declined also and were less than one-half the volume shipped during the same months of the year before.

MALAYAN RICE IMPORTS INCREASE IN QUANTITY AND VALUE [1]

Malaya during the calendar year 1951 imported 751,942 long tons (1,281 million pounds) of milled rice valued at $83,743,000, an increase of 114,608 tons (257 million pounds) in volume (25 percent) and $22,894,000 in value (38 percent). Eighty percent of the imports originated in Thailand, 9 percent in Burma, 9 percent in Indochina, and 2 percent in Italy.

Rice reexports from Malaya during 1951 aggregated 73,014 long tons (164 million pounds) valued at $11,559,000 compared with 21,376 tons (48 million pounds) valued at $2,907,000 in the preceding year. This was an increase of 51,638 tons (116 million pounds) in quantity (242 percent) and $8,653,000 (298 percent) in value from the 1950 reexports. Of the total 1951 reexports, 73 percent went to Indonesia, 14 percent to Mauritius, 13 percent to Borneo territories (Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo) and the remainder of 0.3 percent was shipped to India, New Zealand and Australasia.

INDIAN RICE ACREAGE NEAR 1950-51

India's rice acreage in 1951-52 is reported to be only slightly less than in the preceding year, according to the second official estimate of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, India. The second forecast places the acreage planted up to the end of November or beginning of December 1951 at 69,933,000 acres as against the preceding year's corresponding estimate of 70,627,000 acres.

The second acreage estimate of the 1951-52 crop reportedly is incomplete to the extent of possibly 5 million acres. Based on the

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[1] A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

INDIA: Rice acreage, according to periodic official estimates of reporting and nonreporting areas, 1950-51 and 1951-52

State	1950-51 estimates			1951-52 estimates	
	First	Second	Third	First	Second
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
Assam					
Autumn	950	1/ 909	909	899	917
Winter	2,972	2,817	2,800	2,884	3,024
Summer	-	-	3	-	-
Total	3,922	1/ 3,726	3,712	3,783	3,941
Bihar, excluding merged territories					
Autumn	1,390	1,175	1,175	1,264	1,320
Winter	12,943	12,503	13,310	11,363	11,282
Summer	-	-	21	-	-
Total	14,333	13,678	14,506	12,627	12,602
Bombay	2/ 3,084	2,983	3,000	2,980	2,976
Madhya Pradesh	8,913	8,933	8,933	8,962	8,984
Madras	6,065	8,912	10,126	6,049	8,866
Orissa	-	-	-	-	-
Autumn	1,269	1/ 1,334	1,314	1,269	1,333
Winter	2/ 7,674	1/ 8,055	8,133	7,545	8,069
Summer	-	-	42	-	-
Total	3,843	9,389	9,489	8,814	9,402
Uttar Pradesh	2/ 9,057	1/ 9,216	9,335	6,867	8,744
West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-
Autumn	1,143	1,124	1,124	1,068	1,169
Winter	8,042	8,261	8,637	6,831	8,448
Summer	-	-	35	-	-
Total	9,185	9,385	9,796	7,899	9,617
Hyderabad	735	863	1,131	1,135	1,238
Vindya Pradesh	1,096	1,138	1,195	1,209	1,208
Other	2,340	2,404	4,052	2,307	2,355
Total	67,673	70,627	75,275	62,632	69,933

1/ Revised. 2/ Adjusted estimate.

Directorate of Economics and Statistics,
Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India.

average figures of the last 3 years, the second estimate usually represents about 93 percent of the final official estimate, which includes all the acreage planted during the year.

Earlier in the season (see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 3, World Rice Crop Slightly Smaller) India's 1951-52 rice acreage was reported at 8 percent less than that of 1950-51, according to the first official forecast of India. Late arrival of the monsoon and periods of drought in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, which delayed rice planting, may have accounted for the smaller acreage enumerated up to the end of September, which was the period covered by the first forecast.

SWITZERLAND IMPORTS LESS RICE IN 1951

Rice imports into Switzerland in 1951 totaled 32,953,000 pounds compared with 111,953,000 pounds in 1950 and with the prewar average (1936-40) net imports of 58,580,000 pounds annually. Italy was the principal source of imports in the last 2 years, and the United States ranked second as a country of origin. Rice was imported also from Brazil, Uruguay, and Thailand.

SWITZERLAND: Rice imports by country of origin, 1950 and 1951

Country of origin	1950			1951		
	Semi-milled	Milled	Total	Semi-milled	Milled	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Italy	48,224	44,677	92,901	11,285	12,632	23,917
United States	0	13,120	13,120	0	5,454	5,454
Brazil	2,170	43	2,213	2,199	0	2,199
Uruguay	0	2,311	2,311	0	256	256
Other countries	195	1,213	1,408	0	1,127	1,127
Total	50,589	61,364	111,953	13,484	19,469	32,953

Source: Jahresstatistik des Aussenhandels der Schweiz.

URUGUAY TO HARVEST RECORD RICE CROP

Another record rice crop is forecast in Uruguay providing weather continues favorable until the harvest is completed in June. Production is estimated at from 100 million to 110 million pounds of rough rice (65-72 million pounds milled) from 35,000 acres. The previous record of 98.8 million pounds (64 million pounds) was harvested in 1949-50 from an acreage of the same size.

Exportable supplies from the crop are estimated at 15,000 metric tons (33 million pounds) of milled rice. This compares with 1951 exports of 10,696 tons (24 million pounds). Exports from January through September 1951, the latest period for which statistics by country of destination are available, totaled 7 million pounds of which about two-thirds was exported to Bolivia, and the remainder to the Union of South Africa, Sweden, Belgium, and Ireland. The 1950 exports of 10,795 tons (24 million pounds) went to the following countries (million pounds): Bolivia 8; Germany 6; Switzerland 2; the United Kingdom 2; Netherlands 1; Sweden 1; Belgium 1; and other countries 3.

WORLD WINTER GRAIN PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

The outlook for the world winter grain crop is generally favorable in most areas for which information is available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Winter wheat, the principal winter-grown crop, normally accounts for about 75 percent of the world wheat acreage. The bulk of the wheat crop is fall seeded in all continents except the Soviet Union and North America. On the latter continent the percentage of winter wheat seeded varies from about 5 percent in Canada to an average of about 75 percent in the United States and 100 percent in Mexico. The total area for that continent is normally about evenly divided between winter and spring varieties.

A substantially larger winter wheat crop is in prospect for the United States this year. The crop indicated April 1, 1952 was 947 million bushels. This would be about 45 percent larger than the 1951 harvest, which was the smallest since 1943. Wheat came through the winter better than had been expected, and the percentage of abandonment is now placed at 9.7 percent, compared with 28.7 percent last season. Yields are tentatively forecast at 16.8 bushels per seeded acre, compared with the low yields of 11.6 bushels in 1951. Canada's winter wheat acreage seeded was reported at 892,000 acres, a reduction of 9 percent from the previous year. Winter rye sowings of 684,000 acres were 16 percent less than the acreage a year earlier. Official estimates of the extent of winter-kill and spring condition of these crops will not be released until mid-May.

The condition of winter grain acreage was generally good in Western European countries despite excessive moisture reported from some areas, at latest report. Some increase in winter grain acreage is indicated for this area. Little information is available on the condition in the important producing Balkan area or for Central Europe. Countries reporting are as follows:

In Austria conditions were mostly favorable for seeding, and acreage under winter wheat and rye is estimated about the same as that of a year ago. Despite a lack of protective snow cover in eastern regions, little or no winter-kill was apparent, and the condition was very satisfactory late in March.

Condition of the winter grains in Belgium was described as fair to good when last reported. The use of poor seed is given as the principal cause of unfavorable development, and some re-seeding, especially of wheat is expected to be necessary in the spring. Slight increases over the 1951 acreage are estimated for all important winter grains.

Winter grain acreage in Denmark is slightly larger than the area seeded in the fall of 1950, as a result of increased rye acreage. Winter wheat acreage is slightly below that of a year ago. Unusually mild weather, with more precipitation than normal put winter crops in excellent condition. Increased fertilizer supplies also contribute to the favorable outlook.

The acreage seeded to winter wheat in France was significantly larger on March 1 than on that date of 1951. It is also slightly above the large acreage seeded up to that time of 1950 though still somewhat below the prewar level. Spring acreage also appears likely to be up to that of the past 2 years. It is noted that the greatest increase is reported from a normally high yielding region. The condition of the crop was rated as good until recently, when excessive moisture made the outlook less promising. Warmth and sunshine were needed for best development of the crop.

Western Germany also appears to have increased winter grain acreage somewhat above the 1951 figure. The increase is estimated mainly for wheat, with little net change in the rye and mixed grain acreage. With comparatively moderate temperatures and an abundance of snow providing both moisture and protective cover, winter-kill appears negligible. The condition of winter grains is generally rated as good.

Prospects for good 1952 breadgrain crops are promising in Greece. Though some flood damage was reported, the damage was localized, and is expected to have little effect on the total production for the country. Greatly increased use of fertilizer and weed killers should favor development of the crop. The acreage seeded to winter grains was slightly above that of a year ago.

Growing conditions are reported satisfactory in most areas of Italy. The floods of last November did some damage, but not as much as had at first been feared. Excessive rains have been reported in some districts, but these have been local conditions that should not affect the total outturn materially. The rather cold winter may have a favorable influence inasmuch as it prevents too rapid development.

Most fall grains were developing favorably in the Netherlands at latest report, despite too high a ground water level in some regions. Some damage to the roots may have resulted. The area seeded to winter grains was considerably above that of a year ago. Though a good increase was reported, the wheat acreage does not come up to the official target. The rye increase, though slightly less than that for wheat, brings rye acreage above the target. Winter barley also exceeded the target. The high prices of rye and barley, relative to the controlled price for wheat, account for the interest in the feed grains.

Portugal's winter wheat acreage is reportedly the largest of record. Weather conditions were favorable during the fall and winter, and prospects for fall-sown grains were good as of March 1. The condition of the crop is normal especially in southern Portugal, the largest producing area. Some concern is expressed over the lack of moisture reserves in certain areas.

In Spain winter grain was seeded under favorable conditions, with abundant soil moisture and excellent germination. A good increase is reported for wheat, which would bring that acreage near the peak level of 1934 and 1935. If spring growing conditions continue favorable, another very good crop should be harvested. With the near-record crop harvested in 1951 and the present favorable outlook for the 1952 harvest, bread rationing was discontinued March 31.

Sweden's winter grain seedings show a very slight increase over the 1950 acreage, with a marked shift from wheat to rye reported. Moisture was normal or slightly above during the late fall and early winter, and fall seeded crops were in good condition at latest report.

Little change is reported in Switzerland's winter grain acreage. As a result of heavy rain and snowfall, subsoil moisture is greater than usual. Winter-kill appears negligible, and the winter grains are reported in fine condition.

Fall-sown wheat in the United Kingdom at the beginning of December showed a reduction of about 10 percent from that of a year earlier. However, the winter was relatively mild and sowing in some areas is reported to have continued late into the winter, which would lessen the spread between the acreage for this year's crop and that of a year ago. Increased spring seeding may also bring total acreage closer to that of 1951. The reduction in wheat acreage is said to represent a substantial blow to the agricultural expansion program since a high wheat acreage is one of the basic objectives of the program. The Government announced a subsidy of 5 pounds sterling (about $14.00) per acre for plowing up and planting approved crops (including wheat) on land that had been in grass for at least 4 years. Crops wintered well and are reported in satisfactory condition.

Crop conditions are reported generally favorable in Yugoslavia though apparently not up to the good condition of 1951. The winter was mild, without extremes of temperature, and little or no winter-kill is reported, even though seeding was somewhat late and early growth retarded.

Virtually all the wheat grown in Africa is winter grain. The outlook for the growing crop there is as follows:

The grain acreage in Algeria is slightly larger than the 1951 acreage. Crop prospects have been improved by warm, sunny weather following the heavy rains in February. Damage by inundations to scattered grain areas may be offset by better prospects farther south in marginal agricultural areas, which have received more rain than usual.

Official estimates of grain acreage in French Morocco show a substantial increase over the 1951 area. The weather was reported nearly ideal in most parts of the country until the beginning of March. Some areas have been suffering from lack of rainfall since then, however. Light rains in March eased the situation in the heavy producing areas, but heavier rains would be required to ensure good yields.

In Tunisia adequate rains made extensive sowings possible and have given this year's crop an excellent start. Grain acreage is considerably above the 1951 acreage and prospects for a bumper crop are considered good.

The wheat area in Egypt appears to be little changed from last year's acreage. Late seeding in many areas, attributed to lack of irrigation water, was an adverse factor, but since seeding time the water supply has been adequate and the weather favorable. Heavy rainfall in December-January, which is not of major importance to wheat since most wheat is irrigated, should be beneficial to the barley crop.

Asia's wheat crop also is almost entirely winter grown. Definite information is available for only a few of the important producing countries. The wheat harvest now underway in India is unofficially estimated at 261 million bushels, compared with 246 million a year ago. Wheat acreage is 21.5 million acres, on the basis of the incomplete preliminary official estimate. That is 3 percent below the corresponding estimate for 1950-51. Substantially reduced acreage in Bombay and the Punjab account for a good part of the net reduction for the country. The decreases, attributed to unfavorable weather at seeding time, are partly offset by increased acreage in some other States where seeding conditions were favorable. Barley acreage is tentatively set at 7.1 million acres, a decrease of 2 percent from the corresponding estimate for last season.

In Turkey the wheat acreage sown up to the end of January showed a 6 percent increase over the large acreage seeded up to that time, a year earlier. Seeding of small grains was still going on in the central Plains regions in mid-March, and no winter damage had been reported at that time. Moderate to heavy rains in the coastal regions and light to moderate rains and snow on the plateau area made soil moisture conditions better than normal for grain crops.

The outlook for winter grains in Iran is promising. Production of both wheat and barley is expected to be larger than the 1951 harvest and above average, if growing conditions continue favorable. In the most important grain growing regions of the country late fall and winter precipitation was considerably better than average and conditions there are described as excellent. Grain production in these areas is expected to be well above average. Less favorable conditions are reported for central and southern Iran where precipitation was somewhat deficient and snowfall was less than normal in the mountains. Grain acreage is larger than for the 1951 harvest and also above average.--By Judith E. Downey, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

ARGENTINE WOOL SITUATION IN MARCH

Quotations on Argentine wool fell drastically during March as a result of sliding markets abroad, intensified by financial pressures domestically which forced some producers to sell regardless of price, according to C. A. Boonstra, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. Low crossbred fleeces which sold a month ago from $.56 to $.60 per pound, greasy basis, c.& f. Boston, now bring only $.42 to $.45 a pound.

Producers who refused about $.55 per pound, coarse fleeces, a few months ago now find the market weak at $.35. The general tendency is still toward holding for price recovery or a better exchange rate, but credit is tight and some holders are being forced to liquidate at any price available. Sales have been reported as low as 35 pesos.

Fine crossbred wools dropped also but remained too high for any important export interest. Small quantities changed hands locally at 50 to 60 pesos per 10 kilos, well below the quotation of 90 pesos a few weeks ago.

To Argentine producers and dealers, perhaps the most dismal aspect of the falling market is the failure to develop any export volume even with sharply reduced prices. Growers are pleading steadily with the government to assist them through an upward revision of the exchange rate (now 500 pesos to 100 U.S. dollars) and/or to provide sufficient credit to carry their stocks. Government officials appear uncertain as to what course they should choose.

Exports: The Buenos Aires Herald reported export of about 7.5 million pounds of wool during February 1952, of which about 6.3 million pounds went to the United States. In February 1951 the shipments were 31.3 million pounds. The cumulative total for October 1951 through February 1952 is about 20 million pounds, compared with 107 million pounds in the same portion of last season.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT ACTS TO AID WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The French Government adopted two measures in February 1952 to aid the wool textile industry of that country. The first measure, consisting of two decrees, is designed to stimulate French exports of manufactured goods by rebating certain production charges and taxes when the goods are exported. This rebate amounts to approximately 14 percent of the cost of production. The second measure was the reimposition on February 19 of quantative import restrictions on all commodities. The latter measure will, of course, protect the domestic textile market.

ADDITIONAL WOOL EXPORT QUOTA ESTABLISHED BY INDIA

An additional export quota of 5 million pounds of raw wool for the period October 1951 through September 1952 was established by the Government of India on March 27.

An export quota of 20 million pounds of wool of Indian origin for the 12-months ending September 1952 was fixed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on October 4, 1951. With the additional 5 million pounds now released, the export quota for the current season would total 25 million pounds. This compared with 16 million pounds allocated for export for the year ended September 1951.

A notification issued by the Joint Chief Controller of Exports, Bombay, on March 24, 1952, stated that the entire intial allotment of 20 million pounds had been exhausted and that no more shipping bills would be considered for export permits. According to trade sources, nearly 19 million pounds have already been shipped and the remaining 1 million would be exported within the next 2 weeks.

Indian raw wool production during the current season is provisionally estimated at about 52 million pounds and domestic requirements are estimated at 25 million pounds.

ARGENTINE CASEIN PRODUCTION DECLINING; INVENTORIES LARGE

Recent declines in market prices for casein, together with currently favorable prices for cheese, are resulting in considerable diversion of the limited supplies of milk from butter-casein to cheese, and the production of casein is being discouraged in the Argentine. Although the decline in the production of butter may not be as great as that for casein, since about one-fourth of it is made from farm-separated cream, plants which receive whole milk are converting to cheese where possible. According to C. C. Wilson, American Embassy in Buenos Aires, those without cheese facilities are being outbid for the limited supply of milk.

Current stocks of casein are estimated at 18,000 metric tons of which about one-half was accumulated at 15 cents per pound 1/ and more recent holdings at about 8 cents. Current bids from the domestic trade are the equivalent of 5 cents per pound with no sales listed. Export offers are not firm but 13.5 cents per pound is being discussed among the trade.

The Argentine government has announced a minimum of 22 cents per pound for exports to all countries except the United States for which free trading is permitted. Whether export permits will be granted for shipments valued under 14 cents per pound, however, still is not clear.

1/ At the present exchange rate of 60 percent at 750 pesos per 100 U.S. dollars and 40 percent at the free rate - now 1,400 per 100 U.S. dollars.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL RECEIPTS AND DISPOSALS

Receipts of wool into store in Australia from July 1951 through February 1952 amounted to 3,020 thousand bales, about 22 thousand less than in the corresponding period last season. Receipts of new season wool at 2,926 thousand bales were about 83 thousand bales less than new wool received in the 8-month period in 1950-51, reflecting the smaller clip this season, according to the American Consulate General, Sydney.

Disposal at auction accounted for 2,338 thousand bales in the July-February period compared with 2,313 thousand for the period last season, while 16,227 bales were consigned to the United Kingdom for sale compared with 15,307 bales last year. This left 665 thousand bales in store at the end of February 1952 compared with 641 thousand at the same time in 1951.

Sales of wool in Australian centers during the month of February amounted to 436,983 bales of greasy wool and 6,997 bales of scoured wool compared to 357,332 greasy and 8,692 scoured in February 1951. The average prices received were about $.66 and $.92 per pound for greasy and scoured wool, respectively, compared to $1.82 and $2.50 received in February 1951.

CUBAN PORK CONSUMPTION AT HIGH LEVEL DURING FIRST QUARTER OF 1952 [1]

Inasmuch as hog prices were too high to encourage large-scale processing, slaughter during the first quarter of 1952 was geared mainly to the Cuban demand for fresh meat. Because of the seasonal beef shortage, especially on the Habana market, such demand was strong, and actual slaughter of hogs during the quarter probably exceeded 60,000 head.

The seasonally high purchasing power resulting from the high level of employment during the sugar season permitted a high rate of consumption during the quarter. Exclusive of locally produced pork, approximately 7 million pounds of imported processed meats, mainly bellies and hams, were consumed during the period, as well as about 40 million pounds of lard and rendered pork fat.

Cuban inventories of processed meats on April 1 were large, and, therefore, second quarter imports are likely to be well under those of the first quarter.

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[1] Reported by J. R. Johnstone, American Embassy, Havana.

CANADA TO SUPPORT BEEF PRICE [1]

The Canadian Government has proposed to support domestic beef prices at about 25 cents a pound for "good" steers, basis Toronto, provided current provincial meat embargoes are removed. A differential will be paid for other grades at other markets. Included in the agreement are plans for a federally appointed committee to control the distribution of livestock and meats. The action is the result of a 2-day Federal-Provincial conference held recently in Ottawa, and is subject to formal approval by provincial cabinets.

Canadian officials feel that with the assurance of a beef floor price, farmers will withhold their animals from markets for heavier weights this fall and thus reduce the immediate meat surplus. The plan is based also on the hope that foot-and-mouth disease has been eradicated in Saskatchewan and that exports to the United States will be resumed in the fall.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government has banned all livestock imports from England and Scotland as an extra precaution against the possible spread of foot-and-mouth disease. Such imports from these sources are mostly purebred animals for breeding purposes and last year totalled about $300,000.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

U.S. COTTON EXPORTS SLIGHTLY DOWN IN FEBRUARY

Exports of cotton from the United States in February 1952 totaled 605,000 bales of 500 pounds (588,000 running bales), compared with 700,000 bales (676,000 running bales) in January. The cumulative total of 4,279,000 bales (4,133,000 running bales) for August-February 1951-52 is 59 percent higher than the 2,694,000 bales (2,578,000 running bales) exported during a corresponding period in 1950-51 when they were restricted by quota limitations. They are now approximately equal to total exports in the 1950-51 market year.

A 2- to 3-month delay in delivery of a large portion of the cotton already contracted has been requested by importers in India, the Philippine Islands, and possibly others that may necessitate a downward revision in earlier forecasts of 1951-52 exports. Small reductions have been made in anticipated exports to several other countries particularly France and Japan. Upward revisions in earlier forecasts for Australia, Hong Kong, and several lesser destinations have partly offset the reduced estimates. Such information as is available concerning the import programs of the importing countries, their financial resources and availability of foreign cotton at competitive prices suggests that the United States export total for 1951-52 may still reach nearly 6.0 million bales (about 5.8 million running bales).

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[1] Reported by William L. Rodman of the American Embassy in Ottawa.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination averages 1934-38 and 1939-43; annual 1949-50 and 1950-51 August-February 1950-51 and 1951-52

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Countries of destination	Year beginning August 1				August-February	
	Averages					
	1934-38	1939-43	1949-50	1950-51	1950-51	1951-52
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Austria	0	1/	61	55	22	19
Belgium-Luxembourg	147	43	192	80	57	295
Czechoslovakia	65	0	58	6	6	0
Denmark	35	5	34	31	15	27
Finland	35	11	3	3	0	23
France	589	154	794	447	250	268
Germany	579	4	759	481	309	328
Greece	2	2	50	1	1	0
Italy	430	12	749	546	228	281
Netherlands	86	34	259	158	79	142
Norway	13	6	8	20	13	14
Poland and Danzig	224	1	47	1	1	0
Spain	101	117	66	66	46	170
Sweden	93	53	29	33	30	82
Switzerland	2	14	41	22	19	97
United Kingdom	1,097	987	607	307	251	580
Yugoslavia	10	7	26	78	40	68
Other Europe	2/ 85	146	3/ 38	12	6	23
Total	3,593	1,596	3,821	2,347	1,373	2,417
Canada	261	294	286	431	260	215
Chile	4/	5	39	48	17	33
Colombia	17	9	63	55	31	33
Cuba	7	11	19	24	17	15
India	44	18	405	219	106	627
China	55	106	132	54	54	0
Japan	1,271	216	929	883	704	754
French India and Indochina	4/	14	11	16	6	11
Korea, Republic of	4/	n.a.	52	36	14	24
Australia	5	20	0	0	0	45
Other countries	43	7	5/ 247	167	112	105
Total	5,296	2,296	6,004	4,280	2,694	4,279

1/ Included with Germany. 2/ Includes 39 Portugal, 23 Soviet Union. 3/ Includes 24 Hungary, 5 Rumania. 4/ If any, included in Other Countries. 5/ Includes 144 Hong Kong, 41 Manchuria.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports during the remainder of the current season are expected, however, to be at a much lower rate than during the November-February period though they should be maintained in good volume by the movement of cotton already sold to a number of countries, especially Japan, the United Kingdom, India, and Spain. Further sizable purchases may also be expected under present programs in Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Canada, Colombia, and Hong Kong.

Prices of some foreign growths, particularly Mexican and Turkish, have recently declined to the level of those quoted for United States cotton and are offering strong competition in export markets with a large supply of old-crop cotton to meet demand.---By Charles H. Barber.

AUSTRIAN COTTON IMPORTS LOW

Imports of cotton into Austria during the first 6 months of the 1951-52 season totaled 28,500 bales (of 500 pounds gross), slightly less than the 31,000 bales imported during the corresponding period of 1950-51, according to H. C. Lint and H. C. Stuckmann of the American Embassy staff, Vienna. Thus far during 1951-52 almost 13,000 bales originated in the United States, financed largely with funds provided through the Economic Cooperation Administration. About 4,000 bales were imported from Brazil, and 2,600 bales of Egyptian cotton were imported from the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Mill consumption of cotton in the period August through January of the current season amounted to almost 51,000 bales, only a few hundred bales less than the consumption during the same months of 1950-51. During the entire 1950-51 season, consumption totaled 100,000 bales. Consumption during the current season has been almost double imports, which has resulted in a decline in stocks from 39,000 bales on August 1, 1951, to about 19,000 bales at the end of January 1952.

Production of cotton yarn in the first half of 1951-52 was about 7 percent greater than in the corresponding period of 1950-51, increasing from 23 million to 24.7 million pounds. Staple fiber yarn (cotton type). production in the first 6 months of 1951-52 totaled 15.6 million pounds, 54 percent above the output of 10 million pounds in the same months of the preceding season. Two factors, however, may hinder any large increase in synthetic fiber production in the near future. The price of staple fiber increased by more than 50 percent during 1950-51, where it has remained since that time, thus nullifying to a large extent the price advantage of the synthetic yarn over cotton yarn. In addition, the market for synthetic textiles in Austria is limited by consumer preference for other types of textiles. At present an increase in the demand for staple fiber products must come about through greater exports of synthetics.

Cotton cloth output remained about the same at 48 million square yards during the first half of 1950-51 and 1951-52. There is currently a large inventory of cloth at the mills as well as with distributors, resulting from the recent slack in demand on both the local and export markets.

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot price in certain foreign markets, U.S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1952	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equiv. US¢ a lb.	
					Spot quotation	Export & intermediate taxes
Alexandria		Kantar				
Ashmouni, FG	4-17	99.05 lbs.	Tallari			
Ashmouni, Good	"	"	"			
Ashmouni, FGF	"	"	"	Market	closed	
Karnak, FG	"	"	"			
Karnak, Good	"	"	"			
Karnak, FGF	"	"	"			
Bombay		Candy				
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 600.00	16.10	10.73
Broach Vijay, Fine	"	"	"	2/ 775.00	20.80	10.73
Karachi		Maund				
4F Punjab, SG, Fine	4-16	82.28 lbs.	"	92.50	33.91	13.85
289F Sind, SG, Fine	"	"	"	94.00	34.46	13.85
289F Punjab, SG, Fine	"	"	"	96.00	35.20	13.85
Lima		Sp. quintal				
Tanguis, Type 3-1/2	4-15	101.4 lbs.	Sol	501.00	32.29	8.11
Tanguis, Type 5	"	"	"	470.00	30.29	6.07
Pima, Type 1	"	"	"	600.00	38.67	12.67
Recife		Arroba				
Mata, Type 4	4-17	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	200.00	32.90	2.4% ad
Sertao, Type 5	"	"	"	3/		valorem
Sertao, Type 4	"	"	"	4/ 370.00	60.87	" "
Sao Paulo						
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"	"	"	268.00	44.09	3.0% ad
Torreon		Sp. quintal				valorem
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	255.00	29.09	6.38
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	40.78	-----

Quotation of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U. S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Reported 600.00 to 625.00 (16.77). Ceiling 820.00 (22.00).
2/ Reported 775.00 to 795.00 (21.33). Ceiling 925.00 (24.82).
3/ This quality will no longer be listed on this table.
4/ Nominal

FATS AND OILS

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA INITIATES OILSEED CONTROL SCHEME

An Oilseeds Control Scheme has been announced recently in the Union of South Africa, reports Agricultural Attache Joseph L. Dougherty, American Embassy, Pretoria. Designed to regulate rigidly the production and marketing of peanuts and sunflower seed, the scheme became effective on February 25, 1952, when the Governor-General's proclamation was published in the Government Gazette.

Authority for the scheme stems from the provisions of the Marketing Act of 1937, as amended. It will be administered by an Oilseed Control Board consisting of 15 members appointed by the Governor-General. Several far-reaching powers are vested in the Board. In addition to buying oilseeds and acting as the agent for their receipt and sale, the Board is empowered--in certain instances subject to approval of the Minister of Agriculture--to borrow money, accept donated money and property, and establish an information service to advise producers about marketing conditions. It is authorized to require every person concerned in the production, marketing or processing of oilseeds to furnish certain relevant information as may be specified. The Board may assist by grant, loan, or otherwise, any undertaking relating to storage and processing of oilseeds and research work relating to "the improvement, production, processing and marketing of oilseeds". Of oilseeds purchased, the Board may transport, grade, process, store, sell, or withhold from the market any portion thereof. Moreover, the Board is empowered to fix prices and to prohibit the sale of peanuts and sunflower seed except as authorized.

The Board may impose levies on oilseeds, up to specified limits, to defray operational, costs; and it may establish reserve funds. Moreover, it may "conduct a separate pool" for each of the several varieties and grades of peanuts and sunflower seed which shall be a basis for determining the distribution of the net returns to producers in a given financial year, which ends February 28. In the event that the scheme is discontinued, there are provisions for distributing any surplus funds and for collecting money to meet any indebtedness.

LEBANESE OILSEED IMPORTS TOTAL 26,458 TONS IN 1951

Lebanon's oilseed requirements are supplied principally through imports, reports J. F. Crawford, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Beirut. Total importation of oilseeds in 1951 amounted to 26,458 short tons, of which about 75 percent was cottonseed.

Domestic production of cottonseed amounted to about 3,300 short tons and was the only locally produced oilseed used in the vegetable oils industry. Although 550 tons of peanuts and 720 tons of sesame seed also were produced, peanuts in Lebanon are consumed as salted nuts while sesame is used in the manufacture of Tihini (sesame paste).

Lebanese production of vegetable oils, excluding olive oil, in 1951 is estimated at about 5,060 tons, including cottonseed--3,300, coconut--1,320, and linseed--440 tons. Output of sesame paste is placed at 1,540 tons. Olive oil production from the 1951 olive crop is now estimated at 6,500 tons.

Principal vegetable oils imported in 1951 were coconut oil and palm oil with 757 and 291 tons, respectively. Small quantities of cottonseed, peanut, olive, and sesame oils also were imported. Lebanon exported some 1,240 tons of cottonseed oil in 1951 with the largest quantity going to Egypt.

Although vegetable oil prices on Lebanese wholesale markets were higher in 1951 than in 1950, there was a drop in all prices at the end of 1951 when the new olive oil and cottonseed oil crops became available.

VENEZUELAN OILSEED PRODUCTION INCREASES IN 1951

Venezuela's production of vegetable oils, other than palm oils, in 1951 is estimated at 5,570 short tons, or an increase of about 60 percent from the revised 3,840-ton output of the preceding year, reports James H. Kempton, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Caracas. A deficit producer of fats and oils, Venezuela will continue in this position as long as the local vegetable oil processing industry finds it more profitable to import its requirements than to utilize domestically produced raw materials.

Sesame oil production in 1951 of 3,910 tons, as compared with 2,360 tons in 1950 accounted for most of the increase in vegetable oils. Coconut oil production rose slightly to 1,370 tons, while the output of 290 tons of cottonseed oil was approximately that of 1950. The production of palm oil and palm kernel oil in Venezuela remains small with output ceasing altogether in recent months (see Foreign Crops and Markets of March 17, 1952, page 231).

Hog lard production in Venezuela has been estimated at around 4,500 tons. Output of vegetable lard from both domestic and imported raw materials increased from 15,700 tons in 1950 to 18,290 tons in 1951.

Principal fats and oils imported by Venezuela in 1951 with 1950 comparisons in parentheses were as follows: coconut oil--4,132 tons (6,403); copra--14,268 (23,299); olive oil--177 (3,291); linseed oil--618 (985); sesame seed--3,258 (4,182); peanuts--480 (1,128); hog lard--4,278 (5,327); tallow--666 (2,052); and butter--2,019 tons (4,244).

PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS DECREASE SLIGHTLY

Exports of copra and coconut oil from the Philippines during January-March 1952 of 161,301 and 20,520 long tons, respectively (193,872 tons in copra equivalent) represent a decrease of about 2 percent from shipments in the corresponding quarter of 1951. The United States continued as the largest buyer, but the United States proportion dropped from 60 percent last year (January-March) to 44 percent this year. European shipments increased from approximately 28 percent to 35 percent.

March exports of 43,725 tons of copra went to the following countries: the United States--25,074 tons (Atlantic 619, Gulf 3,065, Pacific 21,390); Canada--3,250; Colombia--50; Belgium--2,600; Italy--2,700; Netherlands--1,900; Norway--1,500; Spain--68; Sweden--1,500; Japan--2,083; Israel--1,500; Jamaica--1,000; and Panama Canal Zone--500. Coconut oil shipments totaling 7,036 tons went to: the United States--4,801 tons; Italy--274; other Europe--962; Australia--184; South Africa--503; and Malaya--312 tons.

February copra exports were revised to 50,893 tons, and shipments to the United States to 19,496 tons (Pacific 13,666 tons).

The copra export price in mid-April was reported at $130 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific. Local buying prices in Manila ranged from 19 to 20 pesos per 100 kilograms ($96.53 to $101.60 per long ton) and in producing areas from 17.30 to 20 pesos ($87.90 to $101.60).

ARGENTINE FLAXSEED, SUNFLOWER SEED PRODUCTION ESTIMATES REDUCED [1]

Argentina's 1951-52 flaxseed harvest is now estimated by trade sources at a maximum of 11.8 million bushels, even less than the low preliminary estimate of 13.8 million reported in January, according to C.A. Boonstra, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. The downward revision followed publication of an official report of plantings last year at only 1.6 million acres compared with the earlier unofficial figure of 1.85 million.

Assuming 1.97 million bushels as the probable carryin last January 1, the total supply for 1952 now appears to be 13.78 million bushels. After allowing for seed and for cleaning loss, the 1952 supply for crushing, export, and carrout on December 31 may approximate 9.5 million bushels compared with 25.6 million in 1951. The probable production of oil is calculated at 72,000 short tons compared with 154,000 tons in 1951.

Flaxseed exports are virtually suspended and movement of linseed oil is small. January and February flaxseed shipments, proceeding under old contracts mostly to France, totaled 817,277 bushels. Total shipments in 1952 probably will not exceed 984,000 bushels against 7.2 million in 1951.

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[1] A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture circular available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

About 100,000 tons of linseed oil may be available for export from the carryin on January 1 and this year's production. This compares with 1951 exports of 278,195 tons. Linseed oil shipments in the first 2 months of 1952 totaled 22,884 tons of which 21,400 went to the United Kingdom. Because of the reduced production this rate cannot be maintained. Shipments henceforth probably will average closer to 9,000 tons monthly compared with the 1951 monthly average of over 20,000 tons.

Goals for agricultural recovery announced recently by the Argentine Government include the restoration of flaxseed plantings to 3.95 million acres annually, near the level of 1947-48 but only half the prewar average. A moderate increase in plantings is likely this season, probably to 2.5 million acres, but several years may be necessary before the goal can be reached.

Sunflower seed acreage probably approached the record 4.46 million acres of 1948-49, but drought has affected the crop and the forthcoming harvest is forecast at slightly under the 1.12 million tons recorded last year. Trade sources predict no more than 990,000 tons.

The probable crush for the year ending March 31, 1952, was 1.1 million tons yielding about 275,600 tons of oil. Assuming about 265,000 tons of oil produced from now until March 31, 1953, the export surplus may be around 90,000 tons.

Exports of sunflower seed oil in 1951 amounted to 92,353tons. The United Kingdom took 58,225 tons and the balance went mostly to France. Shipments in January and February fell off to around 4,000 tons monthly and are expected to remain low until May or June when new crop oil becomes available. Argentina then may be able to export oil at the rate of around 9,000 tons per month. Efforts undoubtedly will be made to sell most of the surplus to the United Kingdom.

This year's peanut harvest may reach 132,000 tons or well over the 100,000 tons reported last season. Oil production is expected to be near 28,000 tons. It is possible that any quantity over 20,000 tons will be available for export.

Conditions remain favorable for a record cotton harvest with cottonseed production as high as 300,000 tons. The equivalent oil output would be about 30,000 tons compared with some 20,000 last season. One-half of this might be available for export.

The olive crop was damaged seriously be late-season hail. Production of oil may amount to 2,000-3,000 tons or about the same as last year's output. All of the oil is for local use. No estimates are available for the 1951-52 tung harvest. During the previous season Argentina produced about 11,000 tons of tung oil.

For all edible oils, including small quantities of rapeseed, corn and grapeseed oils, the combined production during the 1952 crushing season is forecast near 330,000 tons. Domestic requirements are believed to be about 220,000 tons, indicating a possible 110,000 tons for exports. About 90,000 tons would be sunflower seed oil and the balance mostly cottonseed and peanut oils.

Production in 1952 of an estimated 880,000 tons of cakes and meals added to a carry-over on January 1, 1952, of around 220,000 tons will enable exports in 1952 of about 800,000 tons. Exports in 1951 amounted to 434,912 tons.

SWISS IMPORTS OF FATS AND OILS DECLINE

Switzerland is almost entirely dependent on imports of vegetable fats and oils and has an import balance on animal fats. According to T. T. Turner, American Consulate General, Zurich, vegetable oilseed production is limited almost entirely to rapeseed, and the oil yield during 1951 is estimated at 1,850 short tons. Butter production reached 27,500 tons last year, a 28 percent increase from 1950 and lard and tallow production is estimated at 10,800 tons or about 6 percent above 1950. Thus total 1951 production in Switzerland from domestic materials was around 40,000 tons.

Imports of fats and oils during 1951 totaled 47,672 tons and oilseed and copra imports totaled 97,217 tons. Compared with 1950, imports were down more than 20 percent. This decline was all in the edible group and was due in a large part to the heavy imports of the previous year when considerable stockpiling of edible fats took place. Increased production of butter and other animal fats was also a factor.

There is no published breakdown of the various types of imported oilseeds. However, trade sources indicate that peanuts accounted for 44,528 tons, copra for 30,620 tons and flaxseed for 13,110 tons. The remaining 8,959 tons consisted mainly of hempseed, sesame, poppy seed, turnip seed and castor seed.

More than half the peanuts and most of the minor oilseeds came from China. The Philippines supplied all but about 2,000 tons of the copra and the flaxseed came primarily from Canada, Uruguay, and Ethiopia. Only about 7 percent of the oilseed imports originated in the United States. In the case of processed fats and oils, the United States held a somewhat better position and accounted for nearly 15 percent of total imports.

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cotton (Ashmouni variety) traded was 20,000 metric tons (about 92,000 bales of 500 pounds) instead of 500,000 cantars (103,000 bales), as previously reported. The wheat to be received for the cotton is 200,000 metric tons valued at LE 48.65 per ton ($3.77 a bushel) delivered at Alexandria. The contract provides that the 92,000-bale total should consist of slightly more than 18,000 bales of each of the grades Good plus 1/4, Good plus 3/8 and Good to Fully Good, Full Good minus 1/8, Fully Good minus 1/4 and Fully Good minus 3/8. The cotton will be bought on the open market and both commodities will move in Russian ships between March 1 and June 30, 1952.